



United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors

Office of Inspector General

April 28, 2005

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
B-351 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Conyers:

Thank you for your letter of April 27, 2005, concerning the status of recommendations resulting from the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) report issued in September 2004 on the Department's *Patterns of Global Terrorism 2003 Report*. In addition, you restated Representative Waxman's request to this office on April 21, 2005, regarding the Department's preparation of the annual report on terrorism. I appreciate the continued interest in OIG's work on this subject.

Since receiving both of your letters, the Department issued the *Country Report on Terrorism* and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) issued the international terrorist incidents data on April 27, 2005. OIG is ready to evaluate the Department's report on terrorism in line with applicable legislation.

As noted in your letter, this office evaluated the preparation of last year's terrorism report and made recommendations to correct deficiencies. In its review, OIG found a disjointed process for handling and reporting terrorism data. The review noted that while the Department had overall responsibility for producing the terrorism report, the NCTC (formerly the Terrorist Threat Integration Center or TTIC) collected and maintained information for a database of significant international terrorist incidents. Because of omissions and inconsistencies in the database, last year's original terrorism report contained inaccurate statements. OIG identified reasons for the omissions and inconsistencies and went on to recommend better supervision of the database and improved coordination and oversight.

At the end of last year, however, new legislation reorganized the intelligence community and changed fundamentally the structure of government responsible for analysis of information on terrorism. In the period between the issuance of OIG's report and the adoption of last year's legislation, the Department began implementing OIG's recommendations. For example, the Department hired a Public Diplomacy Unit Chief to supervise the annual report. However, some of OIG's recommendations can no longer apply in light of the newly passed legislation. In this year's review, OIG will evaluate the applicability of those recommendations in the current environment.

You also referred to questions asked of this office by Representative Waxman in his April 21, 2005 letter. OIG carefully reviewed the questions. As a result, OIG plans to evaluate the preparation of the Department's report for this year with regard to legislative criteria now in force, both last year's legislation and previous legislation. OIG is not in a position to make judgments regarding any preliminary staff work possibly done before necessary decisions were made regarding the implementation of the new legislation.

I trust that this approach is responsive to your concerns. I expect that OIG will be in a position to brief you or your staff by June 2, 2005. In the interim, should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Patricia Yorkman of this office. We can be reached at (202) 663-0361.

Sincerely,



Cameron R. Hume
Acting Inspector General